

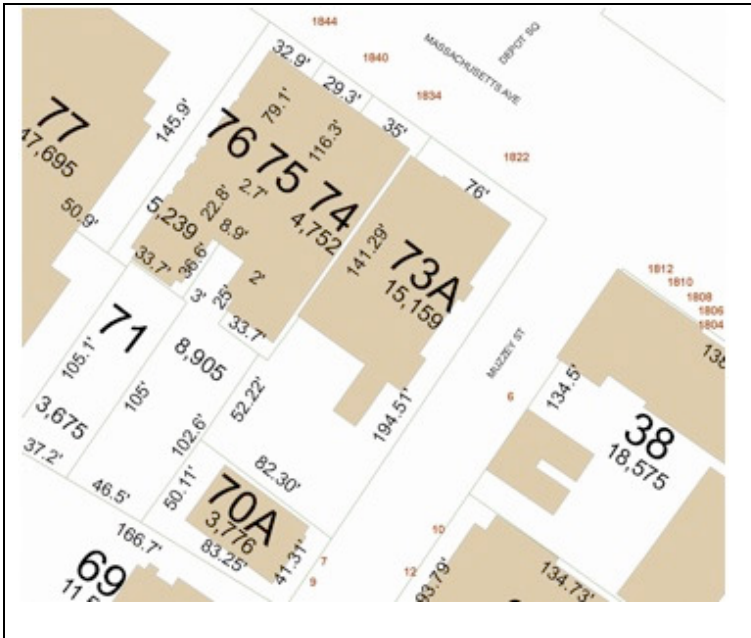
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year): January 2010

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

49/73A	Boston North		
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Town: Lexington

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)
Central Business District

Address: 1822 Massachusetts Avenue (at Muzzey St.)

Historic Name: Lexington Trust Company

Uses: Present: bank

Original: bank

Date of Construction: 1930

Source: *Minute-man*, November 1, 1929

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Thomas M. James Co.

Exterior Material:

Foundation:

Wall/Trim: brick

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

date? – porch over main entrance, one-story addition to west, drive-through at rear

Condition: good

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 0.35 acre

Setting: mixed downtown area

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

LEXINGTON

1822 Mass. Ave.

Area(s) Form No.

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____ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Constructed in 1930, the former Lexington Trust Company building is a Colonial Revival structure modeled after a Federal-style dwelling. The two-story, 5 x 2-bay, side-gabled structure displays a Flemish bond brick pattern, slate roof with parapet end chimneys and a modillion cornice. The double-hung windows contain 6/6 sash and are capped by flat arch brick lintels and flanked by paneled wooden shutters with cutout "Minute-man" motifs. The center entrance is set within a paneled recess and capped by a wooden fan with keystone. It is sheltered by a broken pediment porch/portico supported by Doric columns and decorated by other classically-inspired ornament including rosettes. To the west of the main block is a single-story, flat-roofed section which is two bays wide. Behind the main block is a single-story ell with arched window openings and a second portico which now contains an ATM. At the south end is another single-story section set at right angles, culminating in a single-story drive-through with roof balustrade.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This building was constructed in 1930 for the Lexington Trust Company which was incorporated on January 8, 1914. The bank stands on the site of the old Monument House hotel which was demolished in 1929 to make way for the new building. A rendering of the proposed bank appeared in the *Minute-man* on November 1, 1929, with credit given to Thomas M. James Co. architects. The Lexington Trust Company was acquired by Shawmut Bank in 1974. Several banks have operated in this location since that time.

The firm of Thomas M. James & Company, architects and engineers, specialized in the design of bank buildings. It was founded in 1909 by Thomas M. James (1875-1942) who was educated in Boston and received architectural training under Samuel J. Brown. The firm's important works included the Phenix National Bank in New York, the National Bank of Commerce in New London, Conn., and the First National Bank at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Massachusetts works' include the National Bank at Springfield (1920), the Commonwealth Atlantic National Bank in Boston (1924), the Union Trust Building, the office building at 75 Federal Street in Boston and the Shubert Theater in Boston. The MACRIS data base of the Massachusetts Historical Commission includes numerous banks designed by the firm including the Arlington Co-Operative Bank (ARL.602; 1935); Brookline Trust Company (BKL.1436; 1919); East Cambridge Savings Bank (CAM.93; 1931); Everett Savings Bank (EVR.15; 1930); Framingham National Bank (FRM.411; 1933); Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank (NWB.2182; 1928); Winchendon Savings Bank (WIN.127; 1929); and the Woburn Five Cents Savings Bank (WOB.149; 1931).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Boston Herald, July 9, 1942, p. 19 [Obituary Thomas James].

Lexington Minute-man, November 1, 1929

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Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

Worthen, Edwin B. *A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1620-1946*. Lexington: 1946.

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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LEXINGTON

1822 Mass. Ave.

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Source: *Lexington Minute-man*, November 1, 1929

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